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Anne Vachon Dougherty 2/21/02  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of : February 21, 2002  
V. Castelli, et al : Group Art No.: 2172  
Serial No. 09/237,646 : Examiner: C. Truong  
Filed: January 26, 1999 : for IBM Corporation  
Anne Vachon Dougherty  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS 3173 Cedar Road  
FOR SIMILARITY RETRIEVAL Yorktown Heights, NY 10598  
FROM ITERATIVE REFINEMENT

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Technology Center 2100

AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated October 23, 2001 for the above-identified patent application. The response is being filed with a Petition for Extension of Time for Response for a period of one month, along with the requisite fee. In response to the Office Action, the Applicants wish to submit the enclosed Declaration of Prior Invention, along with the distinguishing remarks set forth below.